

From: [POULSEN Mike](#)
To: [Eric Blischke/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#); [Burt Shephard/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#)
Cc: [Bob Dexter](#); [Chip Humphrey/R10/USEPA/US@EPA](#)
Subject: RE: Friday morning telecon on background tech issues
Date: 05/08/2008 01:19 PM

I'm also in agreement with Burt.

- Mike

-----Original Message-----

From: Blischke.Eric@epamail.epa.gov
[mailto:Blischke.Eric@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, May 08, 2008 12:47 PM
To: Shephard.Burt@epamail.epa.gov
Cc: Bob Dexter; Humphrey.Chip@epamail.epa.gov; POULSEN Mike
Subject: RE: Friday morning telecon on background tech issues

Ok - I agree with Burt on the normalization issue. Let's reject.

Eric

Burt Shephard/R10/USE PA/US		To
05/08/2008 12:33 PM	"POULSEN Mike" <POULSEN.Mike@deq.state.or.us>	
		cc
	"Bob Dexter" <bob@ridolfi.com>, Chip Humphrey/R10/USEPA/US@EPA, Eric Blischke/R10/USEPA/US@EPA	
		Subject
	RE: Friday morning telecon on background tech issues(Document link: Eric Blischke)	

Mike,

Your summary of positions is in agreement with mine except for one issue. After discussions I've had with Jennifer Peterson, Joe Goulet and Bob Gensemer, I think we should go much stronger and reject out of hand the LWG proposal to organic carbon normalize contaminant concentrations prior to making the background comparisons. OC normalization is a procedure used to adjust contaminant bioavailability in sediments, in an effort to more accurately predict toxicity of sediments. That application has nothing to do with whether site contaminant concentrations are within the range of background, or whether the site concentrations are elevated above background.

Best regards,

Burt Shephard
Risk Evaluation Unit
Office of Environmental Assessment (OEA-095)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
1200 6th Avenue
Seattle, WA 98101

Telephone: (206) 553-6359

Fax: (206) 553-0119

e-mail: Shephard.Burt@epa.gov